

THE
A C T

For permitting the
Free Importation of CATTLE
FROM
IRELAND,

Considered with a VIEW to the
INTERESTS of both KINGDOMS.

Great Britain George II.



L O N D O N :

Printed for R. and J. DODSLEY, in *Pall-Mall*.
M. DCC. LX.

10/6

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Sam's Coffee House

*The ACT for permitting the
free Importation of CATTLE from
Ireland, considered; with a View
to the Interests of both King-
doms.*

BY the Bounty upon Exporta-
tion of Corn, granted in the
first of *William and Mary*,
Agriculture in *England* began to
increase, and has continued increas-
ing from that Period to the present
Time.

Its first Operation was probably
upon Pasture-lands broken up for
Tillage, possibly to the Detriment
of Grazing, as in those early Days
of Husbandry, (for, tho' not far re-
mote, yet such they really were)
these two Occupations were almost

universally carried on distinct and separate ; and this still remains the Practice in some Counties of *England*.

But a short Experience convinced the Tillers in general of the Absurdity of the ancient Method. Grounds ploughed from Year to Year, with little Intermission, sparingly manured, and invariably applied to the same Purposes, in many Places not the best adapted to the Soil, returned scanty Crops, and displayed the Necessity of longer Intervals, Variety of Produce, and of intermixing Grazing with Agriculture.

A farther Increase of these Branches, rendered in this new Method mutually necessary, and by consequence equally encouraged by

by the parliamentary Aid given to one of them, extended both over great Tracts of Ground, reclaimed and improved for the joint Purposes of Grazing and Farming, which never before were applied to either ; and Breeding-grounds were meliorated into Corn-fields, and rich Pastures.

Here the Connection of both became still more necessary and inseparable ; for however Corn might have grown in *Hertfordshire* without much live Stock ; and Oxen might have been fatted in *Somersetshire* without Rye-grass, Clover, Saintfoin, or Turnips, neither can subsist in *Norfolk* without Assistance from the other.

These Incroachments of Improvement upon the Breeding-

Grounds of *England*, while they increased the Demand for lean Cattle, lessened the Stock that should supply it ; and the Grazing Scale greatly preponderated by additional Weights taken out of the other.

Grounds fully improved with much Labour and Expence, could not remain applied, even in part, to their former Purpose of breeding and rearing Cattle, without a sensible Loss to the Occupier. Nor could other Grounds, altho' improved so far as to produce more Cattle, and of a better Quality than they were wont to do, keep pace with the increasing Demand from the Feeding-countries, where a greater Plenty of Money, and greater Returns of Profit, give superior Advantages over the poor Occupiers

of

of Mountain and Heath in distant Counties : yet to such must the Feeder have recourse for his constant Supply ; as the Occupiers of Dairy-farms, far from forwarding the Breed of Cattle for his Use, dispose of the Young for their own Profit, and send the fatted Calf to the *London*, and other Markets.

In this View, as in numberless other Respects, *Scotland* is of unspeakable Advantage to *England*, and produces the greatest Quantity of lean Cattle for the Markets of *South-Britain*. But still it is evident from the universal Complaints of a want of Supply, that the whole Quantity of lean Cattle brought to Market from all the breeding Countries of *Great-Britain*, is not sufficient for the increasing Demand. Nor are the bad
Effects

Effects of this Deficiency confined to *South-Britain* : they are felt in the grazing, and manufacturing Parts of *Scotland*; and the Evil will be still more extensively felt there, in proportion to an Increase of Farming and Manufacture, multiplying the Number of the Consumers of Beef in the thriving Parts of that Country.

This increased Consumption in *North-Britain*, and in the Breeding-countries of the South, contributes not a little to the Decrease of that Supply with which the Feeding-countries were wont to be furnished ; and renders a greater Stock of lean Cattle necessary for the whole united Kingdom. The Contest therefore, upon this Subject, lies between what is supposed to be the present Interest of the Breeding-coun-

countries, (infinitely less in Value and Number of Inhabitants) and every other Part, and every other Interest present and future, of the whole.

Whatever bears hard upon Farming and Manufacture now, and would bear proportionably harder upon a farther Increase of them, necessarily prevents that Increase; and an immoderate Price for lean Cattle operates towards this pernicious Consequence, not only by what the Consumer of Beef pays more than he can well afford, but also by what the Dealer in lean Cattle receives beyond a reasonable Profit.

For if the Price of lean Cattle be greatly disproportioned to other Things, then it is clear that the

Pro-

Production of those Things will not be much attended to ; and that all other Materials of Manufacture, and Necessaries of Life will be scarce. The Dealers in lean Cattle will be contented with their Profits, earned with little Care, Industry, or Skill, upon small Capitals. Few will be employed, few Improvements will be made, and Laziness and Ignorance, the Parents of Poverty, will keep the Country a wild and unpeopled Desert.

Even Mines of Silver and Gold, which do not employ, cannot enrich a Nation. And if the Spaniard starves with Mexico and Peru, his Inheritance, in a Country blessed by Nature with every Material for Industry to thrive upon, what Chance is left with the naked Inhabitants of Bog and Mountain to
better

better their Condition, whose only Occupation requires little Labour, and less ~~and~~ Ingenuity in the Management of it?

Among the most indolent and ignorant People, some there are more industrious and skilful than the common Mass; and in the most miserable Countries there are Degrees from extreme Poverty, lessening upwards thro' a few, who are comparatively wealthy. These must have, in the small Transactions of Business, many Advantages over their wretched Neighbours, which tend to establish Monopolies, not the smallest Evil incident to poor Countries.

The Business of selling Cattle, at distant Markets, must naturally run into Monopoly: They are
C chiefly

chiefly bred and reared by the Poor, who are not equal to the Expences of conveying them to such Markets; nor can they be conveyed in small Numbers, upon as cheap Terms as in large Herds. This Circumstance necessarily throws them into the Hands of a few Middle-men, who are the Buyers at home, and the only Sellers abroad; and who by this double Monopoly are enabled to oppress those from whom they buy, and impose upon those to whom they sell.

From hence it happens, that Cattle may be cheap and plentiful in the Breeding-countries, while they come scarce and dear to the Hands of the Grazier. And so it was said to be in the Debate upon the Bill for importing Cattle from
Ireland,

Ireland, when on one Side it was affirmed, that Cattle were cheap and abundant in *North-Britain, Wales,* and the North of *England*; while on the other, it was an avowed Fact that the Price they bore in the Feeding-countries was exorbitantly high, nearly double what the same Cattle would have been sold for with- in the Space of Twenty Years: From which Period the Price of lean Cattle has been advancing every Year.

But whatever the Cause is; whether a Disproportion between Grazing, and Breeding in *Great-Britain*, or the Contrivance and Operation of Monopolists: Whether the Scarcity be real, or artificial, or a Mixture of both; the Remedy must be the same: viz.

A free Importation from another Country; and a Competition between rival Dealers, which can only be supported by a large Supply to the grazing Market, from a sure and quick Vent of lean Cattle, with smaller but competent Profits to the Middle-men, and an universal Benefit to all beside.

But although such an Importation be evidently beneficial to *Great-Britain*, yet it is doubted by some, whether an Exportation from *Ireland* may not be hurtful to the Manufactures and Trade of that Country; or, in other Words, whether a Monopoly in the *Irish* Grazier over the Dealer in lean Cattle be not for the Advantage of *Ireland*.

To clear up this Doubt the following Queries are intended.

Q U E R I E S.

1. Whether great Improvements have not been made in the Breeding-countries of *Great - Britain*, where the Inhabitants were originally poor, and the Lands of little Value? And to what Causes were these Improvements owing?

2. Whether a regular and ready Vent for their young Cattle at a competent Profit, by sending them to the richer Countries, was not the first Inducement to those Improvements?

3. Whether by Drains and Inclosures, the same Quantity of Breeding

Breeding and Rearing-grounds doth not produce a greater Number of Cattle? whether such Cattle be not improved in Size and Quality? and whether this Improvement be not visible in the Cattle now brought from the Breeding to the Grazing-countries of *Great-Britain*?

4. Whether these Operations of Draining, and Inclosing, do not precede all others in good Husbandry?

5. Whether these Operations are not cheapest, and easiest performed in those mountainous, and marshy Countries, where mere Labour is cheap; where Stone to build Walls may be found on the Spot; and where the Ditch or Dike that drains the Moisture from the Ground, forms Inclosures and Separations,

parations, and supplies the Country with Fuel for Fire, and Ashes for Manure?

6. Whether most Breeding-countries be not thus circumstanced, and do not consist chiefly of Mountain, Heath, and marshy Grounds?

7. Whether many Breeding-countries in *South-Britain* are not become great grazing and Corn-countries?

8. Whether this Improvement of those Countries has not in general advanced, by degrees, the Profits from Breeding and Rearing Cattle, enabling the Occupier to proceed further?

9. Whe-

9. Whether other Means of Improvement do not require a larger Capital, and produce slower Returns of Profit upon the Outset?

10. Whether in Countries where the Inhabitants are poor, and where there are great Tracts of uncultivated Mountain, and marshy Grounds, the Breeding and Rearing of Cattle are not best adapted to the Nature of the Soil, and the Circumstances and Genius of the Inhabitants?

11. Whether such a Country can probably rise into further Improvement but from such a Beginning? and whether every Difficulty thrown upon that Beginning must not defeat or retard a future Progress?

12. Whe-

12. Whether in this Sense, as well as in another, the Breeding and Rearing of Cattle be not the first Elements of Grazing; and whether every Encouragement given to them be not proper, which does not tend to stop a further Progress in Improvement, and prevent the Breeder of Cattle from rising into a Grazer?

13. Whether the Opposition given by some of those concerned for the Interest of *Ireland*, to the Act for admitting *Irish* Cattle into *Great-Britain*, did not arise from an Apprehension, that it would prejudice the grazing Business in *Ireland*, together with the several Branches of Trade and Manufacture dependent upon it?

to supply the Grazing-grounds with
D 14. Whe-

14. Whether it has not a quite contrary Tendency, and will not encourage and extend Grazing, Tillage, Manufactures, and Trade?

15. Whether a Prohibition of the Exportation of some Materials of Manufacture from *Great-Britain*, be not from a Supposition that the *British* Market and Manufacture are sufficient for all that can be produced?

16. Whether this Policy, if well founded, be applicable to the *Irish* Market for lean Cattle?

17. Whether the Breeding and Rearing-grounds of *Ireland*, if fully stock'd, are not, even in their present Condition, more than sufficient to supply the Grazing-grounds with

with all the Cattle that can be fattened upon them?

18. Whether great Numbers of Calves be not every Year destroyed in *Ireland*, soon after they are dropt, which produce very little to the Owner?

19. Whether *Ireland* does not abound with vast Tracts of Mountain, Bog, and other marshy Grounds, some of which are deemed totally unprofitable, while others only serve to maintain a few half-starved and stunted Cattle?

20. Whether it would not be a Benefit to *Ireland*, if on these unprofitable Tracts, Cattle were bred and reared with a Profit to the Owner; and if the present Breeding-grounds were so improved as

to maintain greater Numbers, and of a better Quality?

21. Whether those Tracts of unprofitable or little profitable Ground, have not all the Conveniencies for Draining and Inclosure that are to be found in *Great-Britain*?

22. Whether mere Labour be not as cheap there? and whether Peet or Turf be not the common Fuel used in *Ireland*, which is found in great Abundance in the Bogs and Mountains? and whether the Ashes are not an excellent Manure?

23. Whether in general the Occupiers of Bog and Mountain be not poor, unequal to any great Expence, and absolutely disabled from

from foregoing quick Returns upon their Labour and Industry?

24. Whether there are many in *Ireland* who have a Capital sufficient to employ the Poor upon expensive Designs?

25. Whether the Want of such a Capital be not one of those Defects which have kept *Ireland* a Century behind her Sister-country in Agriculture, Manufactures, and Trade?

26. Whether this Want does not make the Breeding and Rearing of Cattle still more necessary to the further Improvement of *Ireland*?

27. Whether in all Countries that have been improved, in *Europe* as well as *America*, the first Settlers were not poor? and whether

ther Cultivation did not arise from small Beginnings, and slender Capitals, first employed in producing those things which were easiest raised and at theleast Expence?

28. Whether the great Tracts of the Bog and Mountain of *Ireland* can, in the first Instance, and without great Expence, be applied to any other Purpose than that of Breeding and Rearing of Cattle?

29. Whether more *Irish* Bog and Mountain converted into good Breeding and Rearing-ground, by Inclosures and Drains, would not, through an Increase of Stock and Improvement of its Quality, tempt and enable the Occupier to lay out Money on Manure, in Expectation of greater Profits arising to him?

30. Whe-

30. Whether this would not directly lead him into Grazing?

31. Whether an Increase of lean Stock would not enable the Dealer in such Cattle to sell them cheaper to the Graziers, the Graziers to the Slaughterers, and these to the Consumer at home and to the Merchant-exporter?

32. Whether Beef can be abundant and cheap without a plentiful Supply of lean Cattle?

33. Whether the Price of Beef be not greatly risen in *Ireland* within these thirty Years?

34. Whether this Effect would have been produced by an increased Exportation, and a greater

Influx of Money, had the Breed of Cattle increased in Proportion with the Slaughter?

35. Whether within the same Term the Price of Wheat in *England* has not greatly abated, notwithstanding an immense Increase of Home-consumption, Foreign-exportation, and National-wealth?

36. Whether this be not owing to a still greater Increase of Tillage?

37. Whether Cheapness in one Article of the Necessaries of Life does not tend to reduce the Price of all others?

38. Whether the Poor of *Ireland* would not be better fed and clothed,

cloathed, if Beef were cheaper from a Plenty of it?

39. Whether Manufacture would not be encouraged by such Cheapness, particularly of those things which are derived from the Slaughter-house?

40. Whether Exports would not be multiplied, and the Balance of Trade with other Nations be rendered more favourable to *Ireland*?

41. Whether the greater Misery of *Ireland*, and the lower State of Trade when many things were cheaper than they have been within these thirty Years, afford any Proof to contradict these Propositions?

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42. Whe-

42. Whether that Cheapness proceeded from Abundance, or from the Want of Consumers at home capable of purchasing for themselves, and of Merchants able to purchase for the Consumption of others abroad ?

43. Whether Cheapness proceeding from these Causes, be not always attended with Scarcity ; where Few earn, and the Earnings of those Few, exceeding their own Consumption, become a Superfluity at an unfrequented Market ?

44. Whether altho' such Cheapness be a Symptom of the utmost Indigence, and is to be found in all poor Countries, Cheapness flowing with Abundance, earned by
2 Industry,

Industry, be not the Characteristic of a flourishing State ?

45. If it were otherwise, whether a rich Country could afford to supply a poor one with Commodities at the Rate which the latter could afford to pay for them : And whether *Ireland* could be a Customer to *England* ?

46. Whether on Grounds improved from Breeding to Grazing, Tillage must not also be introduced ? and whether the one be not necessary to the other ? Tillage for Straw, Artificial-grass, Turnips, and other Vegetables needful in fattening Cattle on such Grounds ; Grazing for Manure, and for the proper alternate Changes from Pasture to Tillage.

47. Whether *Ireland* be not shamefully deficient in all those Articles, which, upon Grounds thus improved, are in universal Practice in *England*?

48. Whether new Discoveries in Agriculture of apter Implements, and a more dextrous Use of them, do not chiefly owe their Existence to the Exertion of Ingenuity and Industry in the Improvement of poor Soils?

49. Whether *Ireland*, with many natural Advantages for Agriculture, produces Corn nearly sufficient for her own Consumption?

50. Whether *Norfolk*, once a Breeding-country, and over-run with Rabbits, is not now, by the Methods

Methods above-mentioned, become one of the most considerable Counties in *England* for Corn and fat cattle ; furnishing the *London* Market with great Quantities of the one, and foreign Markets with an immense Exportation of the other ?

51. Whether an Ox on the once poor Grounds of *Norfolk*, be not fatted cheaper, notwithstanding the Expences of Improvement, and with greater Advantage to the Occupier, than in the rich, old Pastures of *Glocester* and *Somerſetſhire* ; eſpecially in the Winter-ſeaſon, when Turnips do the Office of Hay at a very little more than half the Expence ?

52. Whether from the want of ſuch Improvements, Stall-fed Beef be not extravagantly dear in *Ireland*,

land, and Slaughter for Exportation be not confined to a shorter Season than it would otherwise be?

53. Whether on Grounds thus improved, a fatted Ox be not a considerable Manufacture; whereas on rich, old Pastures, it is mere Produce; resembling, in this Respect, the Grass on which it feeds?

54. Whether in this View, Grounds brought from Barrenness to Fertility, be not of greater Advantage to a Nation, in employing and maintaining Numbers of People, than Lands rich by Nature, which require little Labour and Industry, altho' the reserved Rent to the Landlord of the improved Ground be less?

55. Whether a Thousand Acres of Bog or Mountain, which now produce little or nothing, may not thro' the several Stages from Breeding of Cattle to Fattening and Tillage, become of greater Advantage to *Ireland*, than the same Quantity of the best Lands in *Tipperary* or *Limerick*?

56. Whether Discouragements to the Breeder and Rearer of Cattle, may not be fatally felt in every Branch of the Produce, Manufacture, and Trade of *Ireland*?

57. Whether Markets for lean Cattle be not uncertain in all Countries, as they depend upon Vicissitudes of good and bad Seasons, producing greater or less Plenty of Grass and Fodder, by which the
Grazing

Grazing Demand must be regulated ?

58. Whether the *Irish* Market be not the most uncertain of any, as it depends more upon Demands for Beef from abroad, which must vary from many other Circumstances beside the Vicissitude of Seasons ?

59. Whether it be possible to proportion the Production of a Commodity to the Demand of the most uncertain Market ?

60. Whether when the Quantity exceeds the Demand of one Market, if the Owner cannot send the Redundancy elsewhere, he is not at the Mercy of the Buyers at that Market ?

61. Whether this does not give an undue Advantage to the Buyers at that Market over the Sellers ; and whether a Monopoly in such Buyers be not attended with all the Evils incident to Monopoly in other Cases ?

62. Whether one of those Evils be not the buying cheaper, than the natural Price of the Things bought, if left to a free and open Sale, by which the first Owner of those Things is discouraged and kept low ?

63. Whether another of those Evils be not the selling dearer than the natural Price, by which the Home-market is thin'd, Exportation is cramp'd, and the Balance of Trade lessened ?

64. Whether these Evils, tho' severe upon great Numbers of Individuals, and attended with national Loss, may not be considered by the Monopolist as beneficial to him, who may have the same Gains from a smaller Capital, with less Risk and Trouble?

65. Whether Combinations may not be formed, and Clamour raised against national Benefits, by those who apprehend their particular Interests may be prejudiced by them?

66. Whether other Men, well-intentioned, may not join in the Cry from mistaken Notions?

67. Whether this has not been exemplified in numberless Instances in all Countries?

68. Whether many, even of those who from private Views contend for a Continuance of Monopoly upon the *Irish* Breeder, may not mistake their own Interest?

69. Whether a Redundancy lying upon the Breeder's Hand, by being confined to the *Irish* Market, may not determine him to lessen his Stock below a sufficient Supply even for that Market? and whether the immense Destruction of unfatted Calves in *Ireland* be not owing to this Cause, and may not hazard this Effect?

70. Whether there must not every Year be a Deficiency or Redundancy of lean Cattle, prejudicial to *Ireland*, while the Breeders,

F 2

Rearers,

Rearers, and other Dealers in lean Cattle are confined to the *Irish* Market?

71. Whether the opening of new Markets be not the best Security that the Demand will be equal to the Quantity produced?

72. Whether this Security be not an Incouragement to Production? and whether the opening of foreign Ports does not operate in the Nature of a Bounty upon Exportation?

73. Whether the Incouragement given by the mere opening of a new foreign Market be not free from the Frauds and national Expence objected to Bounties given upon Exportation, and in that Respect preferable to it?

74. Whe-

74. Whether the opening of *Great-Britain* to the Importation of *Irish* Cattle, will not have the same good Effect upon the Plenty and Cheapness of Cattle in *Ireland*, that Exportation has upon Corn in *England*?

75. Whether it is not better to export a Redundancy than keep it at home? and whether this Proposition be not stronger when applied to live Stock, which must be kept at Expence, than to many other Commodities?

76. Whether a Supply sent to foreign Markets, be not in general from a Redundancy of the home Market?

77. Whe-

77. Whether the *Irish* Market will not be supplied with *Irish* Cattle upon cheaper Terms than the *English* can, by the whole Difference of Infurance, Freight, Commission, and other Expences, supposing the Distances by Land through which they are driven to both Markets to be the same?

78. Whether *Ireland* has not an additional Advantage through a nearer Intercourse by Land from Market to Market?

79. Whether the Vessels used in exporting Cattle from *Ireland* must not be of a particular Structure, not so well adapted to many other Purposes?

80. Whe-

80. Whether they can be used for this Purpose at other Seasons than those in which the *English* lay in their Stock of lean Cattle?

81. Whether in a Trade thus circumstanced, Freight will not be dearer than in the common Course of Navigation?

82. Whether with these Advantages and many others to the *Irish* Grazier over the *English*, any Cattle will be exported from *Ireland* except in either of these two Cases: when there are more reared than can be fatted in *Ireland*, or when the Middle-man or Grazier would oppress the Rearer?

83. Whe-

83. Whether many of the poor Tenants of *Ireland* do not make their Rents of young Cattle bred and reared by them?

84. Whether they be not oppressed by Middle-men, and by rich Graziers renting immense Tracts of Land, who let out small Parcels to the poor at an immoderate Profit, receiving their Produce in Payment greatly under its real Value, and depopulating the rest of the Country?

85. Whether this Monopoly of Lands be not destructive to the landed and every other Interest of *Ireland*?

86. Whe-

86. Whether this Monopoly must not continue while the lower Class remains poor, by being debarred from a free Vent for their Produce at a reasonable Price ?

87. Whether by removing that Obstacle, the poor Under-tenant might not rise by degrees into a Capacity of proving a solvent Tenant to the Landlord for a Farm immediately taken from him ?

88. Whether the Landlord could not let his Lands at a higher Rent to such Tenants than he now receives, when the Profits shall no longer be intercepted and shared by the Middle-man ?

89. Whether if those Profits were not thus shared, the lower Stage of Tenants might not pay less,
G though

though the Landlord received more ?

90. Whether Lands will not be sooner and better improved by many Occupants with reasonable Profits from their Industry, than when let to a few who oppress those who are Tenants under them, or who keep the whole in their own Hands ?

91. Whether immense Tracts held by one Man, especially in a Country not abounding in Wealth, must not be confined to Cattle only, with an Exclusion of Tillage which requires more Attention and a larger Capital ?

92. Whether this Exclusion be not prejudicial to Tillage, Grazing, Breeding,

Breeding, and indeed to every other national Interest ?

93. Whether a free Importation of Cattle from *Ireland*, far from bringing Prejudice to the Grazing-business, and to the several Branches of Manufacture and Trade, has not a direct Tendency to encourage and promote Grazing, Tillage, Manufacture and Trade, and be not clearly for the Advantage of *Ireland* ?

F I N I S.

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Q3. Whether a free Importation
of Cattle from Ireland, for from
bringing Prejudice to the Grazing-
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lage, Manufacture and Trade, and
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of Ireland ?



F I V I S

